

Hotel Slaves Raise A Ruckus

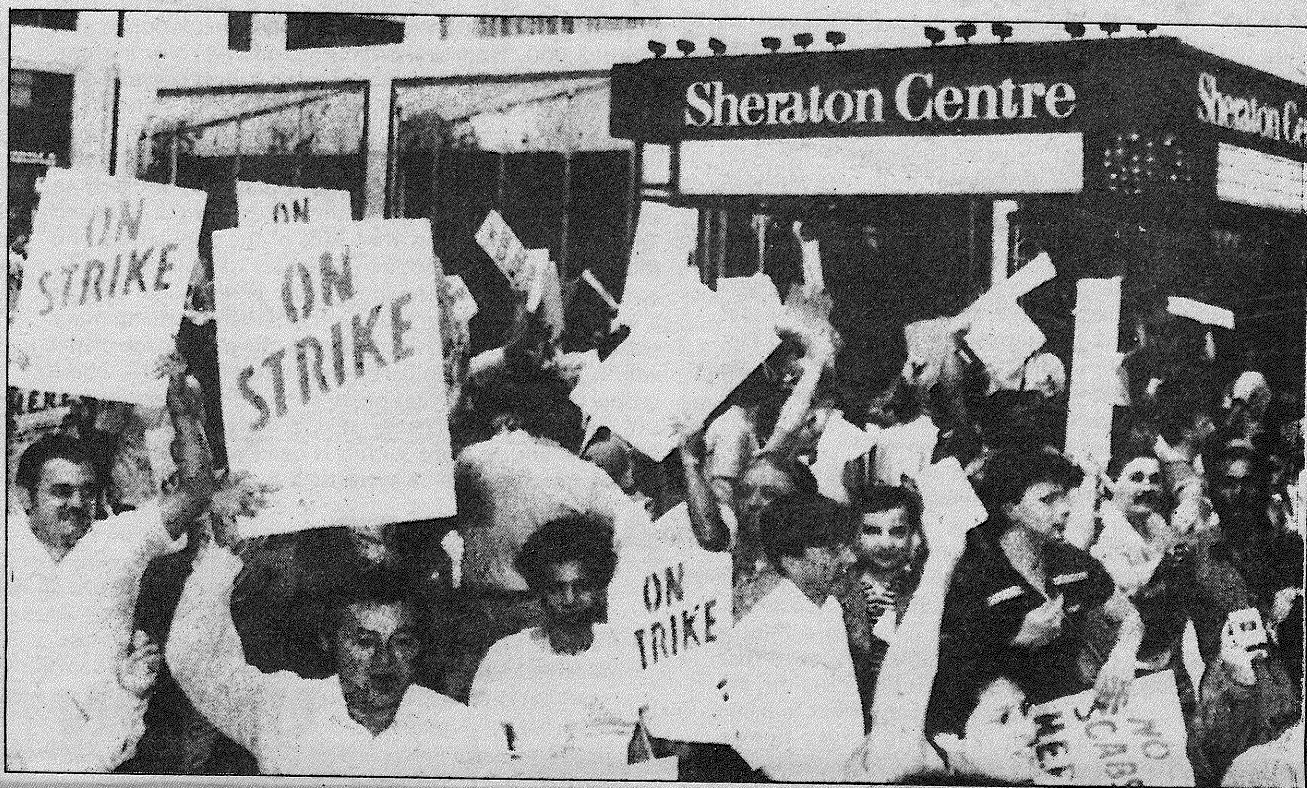
New York City's first major hotel strike in nearly half a century began June 1st as 16,000 housekeepers, maids, bellhops, reservation clerks, and other members of the nine-union Hotel and Motel Trades Council walked out of 46 hotels. The union coalition had demanded a 9% annual wage hike over the life of a four-year contract, although shortly before the strike it reduced its demand to 7%. The Hotel Association of New York, representing the hotel managements, offered a raise of 4.5% in the first year of a five-year contract and flat weekly raises of \$14.50 each succeeding year. Unionized hotel workers average \$315 a week, though some who rely on tips are paid only \$180.

Besides wages, the two sides were divided over management's demand for a two-tier wage system whereby future employees would be paid 40% less than current ones, a longer probation period, and exemption of some supervisors from union representation.

Four hotels signed contracts with strikers at the outset, and the strikers set up militant picket lines with vigorous chanting of "No contract, no work." By June 2nd 10 pickets had been arrested for disorderly conduct, and summonses had been sent out on 11 others. The struck hotels all continued operating, with initially 4,000 scabs, many of them college students and people who had been hired in anticipation of the strike, and management personnel doing the cooking and cleaning.

On June 6th management upgraded its offer to \$16 a week, but the strikers rejected it. City and state mediators, worried about the losses New York's two-billion-dollar-a-year tourist industry might suffer as a result of a prolonged strike, proposed the formation of a panel to recommend settlement terms.

On June 7th about 4,000 strikers marched along Seventh Avenue from 55th Street—chanting, waving placards, and blocking traffic along the way—to a rally at Felt Forum, where they were addressed by Vito Pitta, president of the Hotel and Motel Trades Council. Pitta declared his belief that the large hotel chains—Hilton, Sheraton, and Westin—were encouraging management negotiators to take a hard line in the hope of busting the hotel unions, and appealed to other unions for donations. Workers at nine other hotels joined the strike.



Striking hotel workers march by New York's Sheraton Hotel. Dozens of strikers have been arrested during pick-

eting as police perform their usual role of escorting scabs across picket lines.

Teamsters President Jackie Presser, in a telegram to Teamster members in the New York area, said: "I ask every one of our members not to pick up (garbage). Let the garbage pile up at every hotel that's on strike." Unions representing private garbage carters and food deliverers have agreed to honor picket lines, as have many cab drivers, refusing to pick up or drop off passengers at the struck hotels. On June 13th the hotel unions began issuing strike pay of \$50 a week.

As the *Industrial Worker* goes to press, a tentative agreement has been reached in the New York hotel strike. The agreement reportedly raises wages the equivalent of 6% annually over the next five years—barely enough to keep up with inflation even at current rates. Management reportedly won several work-rule changes which will result in speedups.

Three Cyanide Killers Convicted

Three executives of the Film Recovery Systems corporation, based in the Chicago suburb of Elk Grove Village, were convicted June 14th of murdering a worker poisoned by cyanide on the job. The three were also convicted on 14 counts of reckless conduct stemming from injuries to other workers, after an eight-week trial in which a fourth executive was acquitted. Another now lives in Utah, which refused to extradite him for trial.

During its three years of operation Film Recovery Systems employed 20 to 30 workers, mostly undocumented immigrants, to extract silver from used X-ray film. Among the byproducts of the process were cyanide gas, used in some states for executions, and cyanide sludge, a poisonous waste easily absorbed through the skin. The building had neither windows nor fans, and workers were neither provided with protective gear nor warned of the dangers they faced. As a result, the workplace quickly became what prosecutors described as "a huge gas chamber."

The mostly Mexican and Polish workers could not read English, and thus could not understand the warning labels on the chemical containers. (The universal poison sign of the skull and crossbones on the barrels of sodium cyanide was painted over by the management.) All the firm's employees suffered from headaches, dizziness, and skin rashes, and some quit to look for better jobs; but the majority stayed on, not realizing that by doing so they were risking their lives.

On February 10th one worker, Stefan Golab, died of cyanide poisoning. The management ordered everyone back to work, but Golab's death triggered investigations leading to the murder charges. Film Recovery Systems then closed up shop, though its parent Film Recovery and Metallic Marketing Systems, which owned half the FRS stock, continues. The parent company was convicted of involuntary manslaughter and 14 counts of reckless conduct.

The company was fined \$10,000 as a result of their conviction in addition to the compromise fine of \$2,425 imposed by OSHA for safety violations after Golab's death. Thus the courts have ruled that a worker's life is worth less than a jeep!

The three convicted executives—the FRS president, plant manager, and plant foreman—each face minimum prison terms of 20 years. The parent company will probably be fined. All have vowed to appeal. Noted Thomas Royce, attorney for two of the defendants: "It is a very significant decision.... It sends a message that the typical notions of criminal justice are applicable to the workplace."

Our bosses are understandably leery of such a message. After all, they killed some 3100 of us on the job in 1983 alone, according to US Government statistics which do not include the tens of thousands more who died as a result of slow poisoning. An additional 106,000 US workers were reported injured on the job during that year. All these deaths and injuries were written up as accidents, though most could have been prevented were it not for speedups, dangerous working conditions, and withheld information.

In the FRS case, defense attorneys denied that the factory was unsafe—citing the fact that the Government had not intervened to shut it down prior to Golab's death as evidence—and imported a Texas medical examiner to claim that Golab had died of "acute heart failure". The examiner admitted that the 3.45 micrograms of cyanide found in the body constituted "an elevated level... suggestive of a death by cyanide", but claimed that through constant exposure to this toxic chemical, Golab had developed a tolerance for the poison. The judge hearing the case understandably found this hired testimony unconvincing, and concluded that Golab had indeed died from cyanide poisoning.

The judge went on to rule that Golab's death "was no accident, but murder", and that the "conditions under which the workers performed their duties were totally unsafe" despite the fact that company management was aware of the hazards of working with cyanide.

If sustained on appeal, this verdict could set new legal precedent leading to widespread prosecutions of management personnel for health and safety hazards. Yet such prosecutions are unlikely to significantly improve our working conditions or deter our bosses from killing us on the job. After all, the Occupational Safety and Health Act has been on the books for 15 years, and has proved to be of little or no use except where workers were sufficiently organized to force compliance with its terms. At Film Recovery Systems, federal and state laws proved incapable of protecting workers, more than 50 of whom were exposed to cyanide poisoning until Golab's murder brought this death factory to a halt.

Law or no law, our bosses will not hesitate to injure, maim, or kill us in their drive for profits. The only way we can stop them is by organizing industrially and carrying out direct action on the job.

NORTHEAST WOBS GET-TOGETHER

The New York Regional General Membership Branch will be hosting a campout and picnic for Northeast Wobblies (and any Wobs who happen to be passing through). The campout will begin Friday evening, August 9th, and continue through Sunday, August 11th, in Cooperstown, New York. For information or directions call Mike Donovan, (212) 340-2845 (days) and 928-9172 (evenings), or Rochelle Semel, 662-8801.



Our scientists and sociologists have long regarded the invention of a phonetic alphabet as an essential factor in the civilization and literacy of a people. Consequently those who use ideographic writing rather than phonetic are not considered quite as civilized. Never mind that the Chinese and Koreans had printing presses a century before the Europeans.

In the old days when typesetting was done by hand, the Western typesetter merely sat down in front of a small tray of the style of metal letters destined to enlighten or stupefy countless fellow humans. The Chinese typesetter, on the other hand, did not have the luxury of sitting down at work. In order to compose a simple paragraph he had to walk between rows and rows of cases, and if there was a tight deadline he had to sprint. The only apparent advantage of this system was that due to the ideographic nature of Oriental languages, a Japanese or Korean could read the writings of a Chinese without knowing a word of Chinese.

Many august sociologists have maintained that a simplified style of writing is conducive to higher literacy, while a more complex style is apt to produce a very high illiteracy rate. Yet despite such pronouncements, it was a little-publicized fact that during the Second World War the United States Army had a much higher illiteracy rate than the Japanese Army, even though the Japanese, in order to achieve literacy, had to learn not only the ideographic Kanji, but two syllabaries as well.

As for those non-technological societies which have never developed a formal system of writing, and which are prone to being referred to as "primitive", let the reader be reminded that the peoples of these societies have a working vocabulary three to four times greater than those living in literate Western European societies.

Before your scribe is accused of being on a "noble savage" kick, he would like to unequivocally deny that he sees anything noble about nuclear proliferation, atmospheric pollution, or dietary additives. What is being emphasized here is the retentive capacity of the human brain!

We have been hearing a lot lately about "functional illiteracy", and this present-day malady has not been restricted to the ghettos, barrios, and reservations. I have met many functional illiterates with college degrees.

We are constantly being told that the computer age is opening up great new vistas for humanity. But somehow we have not as yet been told whether computers will decrease or increase our functional illiteracy. This insignificant question has an annoying habit of arising every time I go to the bank to cash a small check.

The bank where your scribe and his companeros have kept their fabulous hoard for the last two decades, being careful not to incur a monthly service charge by letting the balance fall below \$200, has now been computerized, and experience has taught me not to be in a hurry when cashing a check. I go to the window, return the friendly greetings of the sweet young thing behind the counter, sign my check, and write my account number next to my signature. The sweet young thing smilingly takes my check and proceeds to push buttons on her machine.

This machine, which is supposed to be the latest thing in technological efficiency, verifies that my account number and signature are authentic, and most important of all, that I am authentic. But occasionally something goes amiss, and the sweet young thing repeats her litany of button-pushing several times before looking up with a confused and apologetic expression and calling for her supervisor.

The supervisor is seldom sweet or young or friendly, but nevertheless exudes an air of calm and self-assurance as I continue to converse with the sweet young thing. The supe calmly and self-assuredly proceeds to punch the buttons over and over again, and when after several more litanies of button pushing the machine still fails to respond, the supe calmly and self-assuredly walks away. At this point I light up another cancer stick, thankful that I have not yet been afflicted by an urgent biological summons.

One cannot help but wonder why there has been such a heavy turnover of bank tellers since the dawn of the computer age. If a worker goofed up even a tenth as often as a computer does, no bargaining agent this side of Hell could save his or her derriere. Just the other day I asked a computer-nut acquaintance how much two and two was, and he had his pocket calculator in his hand before he realized I was putting him on. Such dependency on computers can be a dangerous thing, especially when you consider the kind of people who usually become computer programmers.

With all the talk about the brave new horizons heralded by the computer age, it behooves us not to forget the magnificent computers that have evolved within our own biological personages, complete with a suitably hard protective casing. As for yours truly, the mechanical type of computers will continue to be viewed with suspicion until there's a little more democratic control over them.

C. C. Redcloud

Editorial:

You've all heard the joke that the reason Americans don't like socialism is that no one wants to give up his chance to become a millionaire. At this point in history, of course, 99% of the US population has no idea what socialism is—some kind of communism, maybe, a sort of cross between criminal insanity and disease. Any discussion of economics is "blaming society" and "thinking the world owes you a living": a pitiful excuse to cover your own inadequacies.

It's not that most people can offer well-reasoned explanations of how good capitalist free enterprise has been to them—people's ideas about capitalism are as vague as their ideas about socialism. Cultural hegemony of the bourgeoisie doesn't quite explain it; the people who run this system haven't tried to sell capitalism to the working class, they've just tried to prevent them from thinking about history, economics, or politics at all.

The only comfort is that in a country of 300 million you're sure to find a couple of other people who agree with you, no matter how atypical your ideas are. And in the face of very high turnover, IWW membership has hovered around 500 for years and IWW circulation is still about 3,000. Not very promising, however, for a group that wants to replace capitalism with a worker-run economy through industrial unionism.

There is cold comfort in the fact that no one else is doing much better than we are(n't) in reaching the US working class. The business unions that were so ready to side with the bosses against the "reds" in the '40s and '50s now represent less than 20% of the population, and that percentage is dropping. The idea of building a new party and getting voted into power is no longer seen as a viable strategy even in countries where parliamentary seats are apportioned according to the percentage of the vote obtained by each party—much less in the US, where proportional representation is on hardly anyone's wish list. The perpetual scheme of reforming the Democratic Party by boring from within is dead too. The Marxist-Leninist sectarians who were such a pain in the neck 10

AROUND THE UNION

VANCOUVER: The Organization of Unemployed Workers—in which local Wobs are active—continues its campaign for free public access to the greater Vancouver transit system for people on fixed incomes. Following a fare increase the OUW printed 2,000 "Unfare Cards" patterned on the transit pass, and the recipients, with widespread support from most unionized bus drivers, have been able to ride free. The Branch hosted a West Coast IWW Conference in mid-July, and its Starvation Army Band has been singing at demonstrations and picket lines.

SEATTLE: Wobblies from Vancouver joined their Seattle fellow workers at the local folk-life festival, singing IWW songs and distributing the *Industrial Worker* and other Wob literature. A four-part series on the IWW ran on the local university station, but local Wobs were denied the right to participate in the panel discussion/listener call-in that followed the taped interview—history on the ground that they would be unacceptably "partisan". Representatives of the local business community, however, were welcomed on the panel.

MICHIGAN: The Southeastern Michigan General Membership Branch has launched a newsletter which aspires to monthly publication. The first issue features an article on a local strike, a report from the People's Warehouse IU 660 Job Branch, reports on various IWW organizing campaigns, an account of billboard tampering, and news of Branch activities.

Preamble of the Industrial Workers of the World

THE WORKING CLASS AND THE EMPLOYING CLASS HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON! THERE CAN BE NO PEACE SO LONG AS HUNGER AND WANT ARE FOUND AMONG MILLIONS OF WORKING PEOPLE AND THE FEW, WHO MAKE UP THE EMPLOYING CLASS, HAVE ALL THE GOOD THINGS OF LIFE.

BETWEEN THESE TWO CLASSES A STRUGGLE MUST GO ON UNTIL THE WORKERS OF THE WORLD ORGANIZE AS A CLASS, TAKE POSSESSION OF THE EARTH AND THE MACHINERY OF PRODUCTION, AND ABOLISH THE WAGE SYSTEM.

WE FIND THAT THE CENTERING OF THE MANAGEMENT OF INDUSTRIES INTO FEWER AND FEWER HANDS MAKES THE TRADE UNIONS UNABLE TO COPE WITH THE EVER GROWING POWER OF THE EMPLOYING CLASS. THE TRADE UNIONS FOSTER A STATE OF AFFAIRS WHICH ALLOWS ONE SET OF WORKERS TO BE PITTED AGAINST ANOTHER SET OF WORKERS IN THE SAME INDUSTRY, THEREBY HELPING DEFEAT ONE ANOTHER IN WAGE WARS. MOREOVER, THE TRADE UNIONS AID THE EMPLOYING CLASS TO MISLEAD THE WORKERS INTO THE BELIEF THAT THE WORKING CLASS HAVE INTERESTS IN COMMON WITH THEIR EMPLOYERS.

THESE CONDITIONS CAN BE CHANGED AND THE INTEREST OF THE WORKING CLASS UPHELD ONLY BY AN ORGANIZATION FORMED IN SUCH A WAY THAT ALL ITS MEMBERS IN ANY INDUSTRY, OR IN ALL INDUSTRIES IF NECESSARY, CEASE WORK WHENEVER A STRIKE OR LOCKOUT IS ON IN ANY DEPARTMENT THEREOF, THUS MAKING AN INJURY TO ONE AN INJURY TO ALL.

INSTEAD OF THE CONSERVATIVE MOTTO, "A FAIR DAY'S WAGE FOR A FAIR DAY'S WORK," WE MUST INSCRIBE ON OUR BANNER THE REVOLUTIONARY WATCHWORD, "ABOLITION OF THE WAGE SYSTEM."

IT IS THE HISTORIC MISSION OF THE WORKING CLASS TO DO AWAY WITH CAPITALISM. THE ARMY OF PRODUCTION MUST BE ORGANIZED, NOT ONLY FOR THE EVERY-DAY STRUGGLE WITH CAPITALISTS, BUT ALSO TO CARRY ON PRODUCTION WHEN CAPITALISM SHALL HAVE BEEN OVERTHROWN. BY ORGANIZING INDUSTRIALLY WE ARE FORMING THE STRUCTURE OF THE NEW SOCIETY WITHIN THE SHELL OF THE OLD.

years ago are largely gone, leaving US worker with the impression, at best, that revolution is something that takes place somewhere else—Russia, China, Cuba, Albania, Vietnam, or now perhaps Nicaragua or South Africa.

So what is left? Well, workers still hate their bosses—if they're lucky enough to have any. The idea of getting together with your co-workers and getting some say in how your job is run right here and now is something all wage slaves could relate to—if only they would think about it. Which brings us back to the point at the beginning of this article.

"Write for the uncommitted!" is what Fred Thompson, IWW editor in the '30s, has been telling all subsequent IWW staffs. Unfortunately, the IWW is unlikely to wind up in any uncommitted hands—at best someone hands out copies at some other group's rally or demonstration. But suppose one did. What then? Would anyone be swayed by it?

Writing handbooks suggest that in trying to convince someone who flatly disagrees with you, straightforward persuasion is almost useless, since it merely boils down to "Can't you see how wrong you are?" The best you can hope for initially, the experts suggest, is to get people who oppose you to understand why you believe what you do—how you reached the conclusion that capitalism should be replaced.

We must not have inflated expectations. Almost 95% of US homes have TVs in them, and in most of those homes the TV is on more than seven hours a day, spewing out the bosses' point of view, backed by radios and newspapers. But in case a few copies of the IWW should fall into new hands, we should have something ready.

It would be good if each issue could run one story of how some incident on the job changed the way someone thought. So we on the *Industrial Worker* staff are asking each of our readers to send us a story—of the boss you hated most, of the job that made you mad enough to do something about it, of the straw that finally broke the camel's back—that you'd like to share with all of us.

plp

*EDUCATION *ORGANIZATION *EMANCIPATION



AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

ONE UNION ONE LABEL ONE ENEMY

Industrial Worker

The *Industrial Worker* (ISSN 0019-8870) is the official organ of the Industrial Workers of the World, 3435 North Sheffield, Suite 202, Chicago, Illinois 60657, phone (312) 549-5045. Second-class postage paid at Chicago. Unless designated as official policy, articles in the *Industrial Worker* do not necessarily represent the official position of the Industrial Workers of the World. No paid or commercial advertising ever accepted. The *Industrial Worker* is published monthly and is mailed without a wrapper to reduce expenses, but a wrapper can be requested.

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General Secretary-Treasurer: Jon Bekken

Please send all copy to: Industrial Worker, 3435 North Sheffield, Chicago, Illinois 60657. The deadline for all copy is the 10th of each month.



KELLER STRIKE: NLRB AS USUAL

The IWW's strike against the William F. Keller fish company continues. As a result of the strike, Keller's operations have been reduced to one worker operating out of Keller's home in Maine. But the National Labor Relations Board is well on the way to handing Keller a victory he has been unable to win on his own.

On May 30th the NLRB regional director affirmed an order directing Keller to post a notice stating, among other things: "We will not threaten our employees with discontinuance of our operations, the transfer of our operations elsewhere, or any other reprisals if they become or remain members of or give assistance to or support [the IWW] or any other labor organization."

This order stems from Keller's conduct when the IWW began organizing last October, forcing workers to strike to protect themselves against Keller's union-busting tactics. (Keller has since made good his threats to shut down his New York operation, and has illegally fired striking workers.) In a June 11th appeal of the order, IWW organizer Paul Poulos argued that Keller's conduct before and since the order was imposed (and agreed to by Keller) makes a mockery of its provisions.

Thus the NLRB has shown itself once again to be nothing but a quiescent tool of the bosses, whose myriad laws and regulations purporting to protect workers and our right to organize (and to regulate labor-management relations) in fact exist merely to entangle us in courtrooms and delays.

The CONcessions Beat

JEWEL WORKERS WIN \$15 MILLION IN BACK PAY

In February of last year, Chicago-based Jewel Food Stores unilaterally slashed wages up to 16% despite a union contract. The United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), which represents Jewel workers, responded with a lawsuit seeking return of the wage cuts with interest and penalties. The UFCW did not contest Jewel's right to impose pay cuts in mid-contract, however; it merely insisted that the company must first meet with the union, and must submit the cuts to arbitration if agreement could not be reached.

On April 9th of this year a US district court ruled in favor of the union, sending the case to arbitration. Facing both a possible strike, after Jewel workers narrowly voted down a "final" contract offer, and potential liability for more than \$21 million in back wages and interest for the illegal pay cuts, Jewel began discussions with the union. The final agreement, reached some 17 months after the pay cuts, will return more than \$15 million to restore all pay lost since the cuts were imposed, and will freeze wages for the duration of the 15-month contract. Most workers will receive their back pay—ranging from \$1200 to \$3400—in early August, but some will receive only part and will have to wait till March for the rest.

UPI WORKERS OPPOSE NEW CONCESSIONS

Last year United Press International's 900 unionized workers took a 25% pay cut when management promised that the \$9 million in annual savings thus realized would put the news service on a sound financial footing. But the promise never materialized, and now UPI is proving once again that granting concessions merely emboldens the bosses to seek further cuts.

This June the UPI management proposed suspending pension-fund payments, cutting medical benefits, canceling a scheduled 5% pay raise, slashing severance pay, and raising the existing 37½-hour workweek to 40 hours. At the same time, the company proposed raises of 18 to 33% for its top management, including a pay hike of \$24,000 for the head of UPI's broadcast division.

UPI workers responded to this outrage by setting up informational pickets across the country. But UPI is currently operating under supervision of the bankruptcy courts, which could unilaterally impose the new concessions.



THE RAT RACE: A FABLE

The rats were at the starting line. At the sound of the starter pistol, a few ran ahead of the rest. On the wall of the rat maze were billboards advertising running shoes and fast cars.

Rats zoomed around in their Porsches. Long-distance marathon rats ran around the maze looking for an exit without any luck. A guru advised the other rats to meditate to visualize the exit... but they were still inside the maze.

Economist rats claimed that the maze provided jobs for auto and steel workers as well as for advertising rats and salesmen, thus creating a perfect maze society.

Psychologist rats maintained that it wasn't the maze but the repression of the natural rat instinct to run that was the cause of unhappiness. Social workers counseled "failures" who were lazy and walked around the maze instead of running the way they were supposed to.

One day, though, a curious rat took a bite out of one of the walls of the maze and found out it was cardboard. He took some more bites. The other rats tried to stop him, but soon he had eaten a large hole in the maze. Once outside, the rats began to evolve, and soon they were no longer rats.

Earl Gilman, *Rank and File News*

PELTIER NEW-TRIAL BID REJECTED

In a 20-page ruling, North Dakota Federal Judge Paul Benson has rejected Leonard Peltier's bid for a new trial. Peltier, a Native American activist, has been imprisoned since his conviction on admittedly-perjured testimony in 1977. The IWW General Executive Board has recognized Peltier as a class-war prisoner, and the IWW General Defense Committee is now circulating petitions to the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals supporting Peltier's bid for a new trial. Copies of this petition are available on request from the IWW in Chicago.

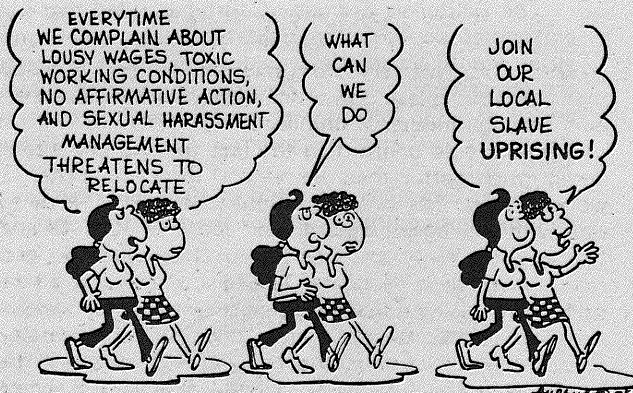
IWW CONVENTION LABOR DAY WEEKEND

The IWW's 43rd General Convention will be held in Chicago August 31st and September 1st. All IWW members in good standing have full speaking and voting rights. The Convention will hear reports on ongoing organizing drives, discuss plans for next year's International Labor Conference, hear proposals for amending the IWW Constitution, and develop strategies and nominate officers for next year.

WORKERS BOO POLITICIANS

Thousands of angry, chanting State workers repeatedly booed Louisiana Governor Edwin Edwards in Baton Rouge recently, and then booed AFL-CIO State President Victor Bussie when he defended the Governor.

The workers were demonstrating for a pay raise (their wages have been frozen since 1981), and the Governor spoke at their rally to counsel moderation and urge them to trust him. Angry workers repeatedly heckled Edwards, referring to his scandal-ridden administration and to funds squandered on the World's Fair. Edwards claims to support pay hikes for State workers in the neighborhood of 7% (which would reportedly cost the State \$100 million annually), but insists that such a modest pay hike cannot be granted unless the Legislature hikes taxes by a billion dollars. Last year the Legislature voted \$750 million in taxes, not one penny of which found its way to State workers.



GIVING BACK UNION POWER

The wave of concessions that struck unionized workers in the late 1970s has done great damage to the labor movement. Since 1979, one in six unionized workers has accepted a labor contract that either freezes or reduces wages and benefits or alters work rules. Despite the fact that the economy is no longer in recession (as of Spring 1985), the givebacks show no signs of abating. In mid-1981 the average wage increase won in union contracts was close to 10%; by mid-1984 it had dropped below 4%—its lowest level since the mid-1960s.

A recent study by the Federal Reserve Board documents the nature and extent of wage givebacks since '81. That year 365,000 union workers reaching new settlements accepted first-year cuts or freezes. By 1982 that number had climbed to 2.3 million, accounting for two-fifths of all workers involved in settlements covering a thousand or more. (In manufacturing contracts the fraction was one-half.) Many of the larger agreements eliminated guaranteed annual increases over the life of the contract: a practice which became the norm in industries such as auto, trucking, farm machinery, rubber, aluminum, metal containers, copper mining, and shipbuilding.

In 1983 workers took wage cuts ranging from 10% to 20% in the airline, meatpacking, and steel industries. Half of all unionized construction workers accepted pay cuts or freezes that year, and the same pattern held for the first nine months of 1984. Despite the acclaimed economic recovery, a fourth of all workers covered by new union contracts accepted wage cuts or freezes.

The Fed study found this trend toward "non-traditional bargaining" unprecedented with respect to the number of workers and industries it touched. In the past such concessions have been confined specifically to troubled firms and industries, such as textiles in the early '50s and meatpacking in the early '60s, and cyclical economic downturns have not left behind a trail of concessions. Clearly, more is at work here than just economic factors.

(reprinted from *Dollars & Sense*)

ROADWAY JOBS A SMOKESCREEN

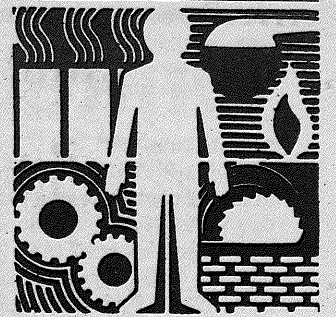
Teamsters curious to learn whether management will take advantage of the National Master Freight Agreement's three-tier pay scale, setting much lower wages for new hires and part-time workers, might look to the example of Roadway Express.

In Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, Roadway has been advertising for full- and part-time dock workers. Hundreds of workers applied for 50 positions with the company—but those lucky enough to land a job found that they had to pay substantial expenses up front (for physical exams and safety equipment) only to be fired at the end of the 30-day probation period. (After 30 days new workers become eligible to join the union and receive benefits.)

For over a year, Roadway has been running monthly ads seeking new workers. Those hired make \$9 an hour and work on an on-call basis 24 hours a day, seven days a week. At the end of 30 days they are taken off the on-call list (the company does not notify workers that they have been fired) and a new crew is brought in. In an interview with the Wilkes-Barre *Citizens' Voice*, Roadway management denied that they had a 30-day employment policy, insisting that the firm is looking for permanent workers. However they were unable to confirm a single case of a worker's surviving the 30-day probation period in the last six months.

Fred
Thompson's

labor in north america



A nationwide boycott of Canada's Eaton's stores has resulted in an agreement covering the six stores in Southern Ontario where employees had dared strike. Eaton's has long fought off unions largely by using part-time workers.

As a result of student support for their actions in the New Haven area, the Hotel and Restaurant Employees have hired 40 college graduates from among 500 applicants to staff organizing campaigns in four target areas. Though the pay will be only \$300 a week, the cost of the campaign for a year will hit two million bucks.

The New York hotel strike was the first strike in 46 years of the area Hotel and Motel Trades Council, representing 25,000 workers in 165 hotels. They want a 25% wage hike over four years, but owners offer only 2% per year. The picket lines were respected by other unions, with police picking up garbage and charging the hotels for the service. Many conventions were shifted to other locations.

As another example of co-ordinated bargaining, 13 unions are bargaining jointly with General Electric and Westinghouse. GE agreements ended June 30th, and Westinghouse agreements covering 26,000 workers at 27 locations end July 21st. With employment in both companies down by a fifth in the last three years, job security is the top issue.

Teamsters are involved in most co-ordinated bargaining, for where is there a job where trucks don't haul in material and take away products, even if the union hasn't taken in other work? Now if all groups whose work is tied to the Teamsters were to affiliate with it, democratize it, and rationalize its structure, they would wind up with what the IWW has been urging for 80 years. So why not take the more direct route to the same goal?

Salary and expenses for Teamsters President Presser ran to \$755,474 in 1984. Presser negotiated a National Master Freight Agreement that does not cover dock and office workers. So Chicago Local 710 called out 700 truck drivers to protect these excluded workers and resist a pay cut for casuals from \$14 to \$11 an hour. In response, Consolidated Freightways shifted much of its work to its non-union subsidiary Central Express. Then Presser ordered Local 710 to settle after 11 days on company terms. So industrial unionism would benefit the Teamsters too.

United Airlines started offering big bargains after it settled with the Airline Pilots—evidence that it was not driven by simple economic pressure into that long fight with the Pilots and Flight Attendants. Rational industrial unionism in aviation would result in more rational use of its facilities.

The Clothing and Textile Workers extended their old agreement four more months so as to continue negotiations. The Ladies' Garment Workers settled with dress, coat, and sportswear manufacturers for no increase this year, but 5 and 6% boosts in the next two years. The employers had asked for a three-year pay freeze to cope with increasing imports.

American companies have been finding it increasingly difficult to sell their products abroad. As a result, four times as many US manufacturers engage in barter today as did five years ago, undertaking to dispose of imports in return for overseas sales. The arms program here has led overseas banks to buy US dollars to loan to the US Government to build bombs that may eventually land on them—making it increasingly difficult for workers here to get jobs making goods to sell there. American companies that used to export iron and steel, paper, and machinery are hit by the tendency of foreign currencies to buy fewer dollars these days, though exchange rates seem to have started swinging this summer.

Are coal mines getting safer? Government figures may say they are, but the United Mine Workers point out that the Reagan Administration doesn't play fair. They cite the case of North America's Quarto Number 6 mine, where they find that out of 624 lost-time accidents for which the company could have been fined \$6,240,000 it was found guilty of only two violations and was fined only \$40.

JAPANESE WORKERS REACH OVERSEAS

A new issue of *Rank & File* has recently come our way. This magazine, published by a branch of the Japanese Postal Workers' Union, is an effort to build international solidarity of rank-and-file workers. The latest issue includes articles on the common problems faced by US and Japanese workers, "rationalization" in the Japanese steel industry and public sector, an appeal for international solidarity of rank-and-file workers printed (off an advance copy) in the May *IW*, the British coal strike, and the campaign for a nuclear-free New Zealand.

To get on *Rank & File's* mailing list, send a donation to them in care of Zentei Omori, 3-9-13 Sanno Otaku, Tokyo, Japan.

United Pact: No Victory for Labor

On June 14th the 27-member United Council of the Air Line Pilots' Association (ALPA) ratified a new four-year pact with United Airlines (UAL), ending their 29-day strike. While the economic issues in the dispute had been resolved as of May 24th, the fate of 270 scab pilots and the 570 pilot trainees and flight attendants who had honored ALPA's picket lines during the walkout still remained to be resolved before the regular pilots would return to work. (ALPA had pledged that they would not ratify the May 24th agreement until a back-to-work accord had been reached by UAL and the 10,000-member Association of Flight Attendants (AFA), 90% of whom had honored ALPA picket lines since the strike began May 17th.

The settlement reached May 24th was anything but a victory for the labor movement. The main issue in the strike, United's demand for a two-tier pay scale which would leave the wages of new hires 40% below those of current employees for up to 20 years (the time it usually takes a pilot to reach the rank of captain) was resolved with the Pilots' Association agreeing in principle to the two-tier scheme for a period of five years, after which it would go to binding arbitration. Indeed, from the very beginning ALPA never challenged the two-tier system itself—only the length of time that it would be in effect. Some may argue that the compromise eventually reached was a "victory" of sorts, but clearly the fact that this is yet another case in which an employer has succeeded in obtaining a pay cut for future employees represents a victory for the bosses and not for the workers. The two-tier scheme has been a major tactic of the employers in their cost-cutting offensive for several years, and labor has yet to muster the strength or the resolve to successfully resist it.

But while the outcome of the United strike cannot be considered a victory for labor, there were at least two bright spots amid the gloom: the willingness of the Flight Attendants to honor the pilots' picket lines, and ALPA's

80 Years of Rebel Art

The month of May 1985 was unique in the history of Chicago art exhibitions. Such events are generally associated with wine-and-cheese receptions in one of the city's more affluent neighborhoods. But at this particular exhibition, opening on May Day in the basement of a union hall on one of Chicago's less-attractive streets, only beer and snacks were served—and not to erudite art connoisseurs, but to ordinary working stiffs or folks who had recently graduated from that category.

For many years, when the *Industrial Worker* and other IWW publications were being printed on flatbed presses with live type, the illustrations that enhanced these publications were contributed mainly by members of the IWW, and the organization did not have to solicit the services of professional illustrators. With the exception of Ralph Chaplin, who was a graduate art student, and "Dust" Wallin, who sold his non-Wobbly cartoons to the Establishment press, most of the IWW's illustrators were self-taught artists whose only encounter with the academic art world was an occasional visit to a gallery, and who were far less concerned with academic purity than with getting the message of industrial unionism across to their fellow workers.

Over the years, the drawers and cubbyholes of the IWW editorial offices had been accumulating the many drawings and cartoons that were converted into photo-engraved plates. And whether because of a lack of good housekeeping on the part of numerous successions of office custodians or because of an innate respect for the artistic efforts of their fellow human beings, these works never shared the fate of countless tons of literary submissions.

While many of these works were drafted on quality paper, many others were roughed out on scrap paper in some hobo jungle with no other utensils than a second-hand fountain pen. Since many are 60 years old or older and were done by artists born in another century, the style of drawing is somewhat dated. However one of the most significant comments by visitors to the exhibition was: "These cartoons look old, but they could have been done yesterday!" Comments such as these were made not by art connoisseurs or sociologists, but by ordinary working stiffs whose experience has taught them that economic conditions have not changed substantially for a long time. The exhibition was seen mainly by workers, and the artistic effects displayed on the walls spoke to them in language that was easy to understand.

This exhibition was very well received, and enough posters and brochures were sold to insure a similar exhibition next year which will coincide with the Haymarket Centennial and feature a one-man show of the work of Joe Troy, who at the age of 13 was submitting cartoons to the *Arbeiter Zeitung*, the German-language publication of the Haymarket anarchists. There have been many inquiries and requests for the exhibition from across the country, and arrangements are now being made to "put the show on the road" by early September. The *Industrial Worker* will keep you posted on future appearances.

Alfredo Nuberoja

THE WHOLE EL SALVADOR WAR is being fought to protect the interests of the 6% of the population who earn more than \$240 a month.

pledge to stay out until a back-to-work agreement had been reached between the AFA and UAL. The pilots stuck by that pledge until the AFA released them from it on June 14th, when they decided to return to work and leave the unresolved issues of preferential treatment for scabs and punishment for those who honored the picket lines up to the courts, along with the questions of "super-seniority" for the scabs and United's punitive attitude toward the 570 trainees who refused to act as strikebreakers. This decision to rely on the courts to decide the unresolved issues is definitely not a positive sign for the future of the labor movement.

Neither is the disgusting union scabbing of the International Association of Machinists. As in the PATCO strike of 1980 and so many more, the IAM, which rep-

resents ground crews, had the power to shut the company down but did nothing more than ask a judge to grant an injunction permitting their members to honor picket lines despite the no-strike clause in their sacred contract.

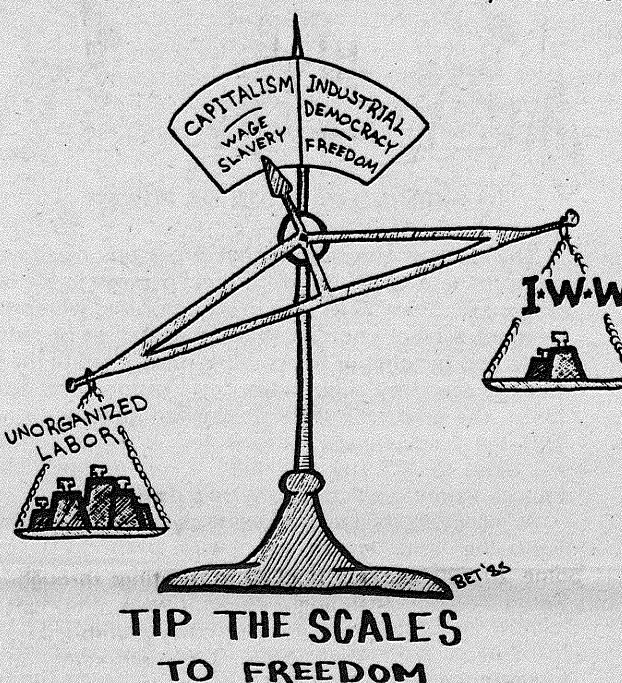
Union scabbing is nothing new to the labor movement. Indeed, ALPA and many other craft and so-called industrial unions, such as the UAW during the Greyhound strike, are guilty of this crime. It is the major cause of labor's defeats, and the main reason the IWW advocates one big union of all the workers of the world. Solidarity is the only way to achieve victory. Without it, no strike is truly winnable. Until workers realize this and work to spread every strike, there will be no real victory for labor.

Mike Hargis

Labor & the Law

The California Supreme Court has ruled that public employees do have the right to strike "unless such a strike would substantially injure paramount interests of the larger community". That decision voided a damage award of \$335,000 against the Service Employees who struck the Los Angeles Sanitation District for 11 days in 1976.

Nurses locked out in Ohio in 1979 will now get unemployment compensation for the time they lost. Ohio



state law bans such payment when unemployment results from a "labor dispute", but the Ohio top court has ruled that the locked-out nurses were "innocent bystanders" when the trustees declared the lockout.

Virginia has narrowed its basis of compensation for job-created diseases to exclude "work-related aggravation" of diseases not proved to have been caused by the job. That is a retreat from the rule now usually observed.

In 1983 and 1984, the Reagan NLRB decided 60% of its cases in favor of the employers—more than double their score under preceding boards. It can also do lots of other dirty tricks. The Cement, Lime, Gypsum, and Allied Workers had to give up their strike against Missouri Portland Cement, and the NLRB scheduled a vote on decertification just past the June 15th date that would have let union members on the preferential hiring list cast a ballot.

Bank lawyers argue that it would be criminal disregard of their fiduciary obligations to let moral issues interfere with their decisions on whether or not to invest in South Africa. But on the positive side, an Illinois court has convicted three company executives of murder for conditions that killed a worker via cyanide poisoning—and that's both startling and novel.

JOB-SALE FRAUD

Mike Scott had been laid off from the lead mines in Festus, Missouri and was selling tires for his brother-in-law when he heard of an offer that couldn't be ignored: construction jobs, exotic places, \$100,000. He investigated, and everything seemed legitimate. So Scott and at least 675 others, mostly from Louisiana, Missouri, and Washington state, paid fees to Trans World Careers of Jacksonville, Florida, with the understanding that they would soon be drawing big salaries on construction projects in Africa or Thailand.

To Scott and many other people from the Missouri lead belt southwest of Saint Louis, where unemployment runs about 23%, this sounded too good to be true—and it was: Howard Crawford, the founder of Trans World Careers, was arrested last month in Florida and charged with organized fraud.

WORKING WOMEN, FILTHY FLOORS: Sales of scouring powder, mildew removers, floor wax, and dish-washing liquids have declined in the US for the tenth straight year. Marketing researchers for cleanser firms blame the decline on the increasing number of women working outside the home. Claims one: "Where women once competed for the brightest sheen on the coffee table, now they compete to be too busy for such things." Perhaps if the husbands did their share....

Monsanto employees lost out on their 28-million-dollar lawsuit for dioxin damage after 11 months of trial. The judge ruled that to win their case they had to prove that the company had endangered its employees "knowingly, willfully, and recklessly".

The Virginia Supreme Court has ruled that a teacher is entitled to unemployment benefits for those weeks in which his earnings are less than the benefits. The ruling is expected to result in schools finding extra chores for substitute teachers, and also to induce the unemployed to take part-time jobs which they might otherwise avoid lest a brief job terminate their claims.

The Alamo Foundation in Arkansas, a right-wing church group, runs 30 businesses where the workers get their keep but no pay. The Supreme Court has now ruled that they must be paid at least the minimum wage as a protection to other enterprises.

Texas has adopted a law urged by the United Farm Workers extending unemployment compensation to its 150,000 farm employees.

Inland Container has been ordered to shell out three million in back pay to the hourly production workers it laid off in 1981, when it acquired a unionized plant and retained the office workers while laying off the hands. The company slipped up while defending against a separate lawsuit over age discrimination when it listed among its employment criteria "willingness to work in a non-union environment".

Suits encouraged Los Angeles to clear itself of sex discrimination in its new three-year contract with AGSCME via extra 10% and 15% raises for jobs staffed mainly by women. San Francisco also has undertaken "comparable worth" corrections for City employees.

An AFL-CIO study reports that the Labor Department, while cutting back on numerous programs, has mounted an audit blitz of union financial records. More than 1600 audits are now being conducted, costing unions considerable time and money, yet last year the audits resulted in criminal charges against only about a hundred persons.

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US WORKFORCE STUCK ON INCOME TREADMILL

Americans are no better off economically on the average than they were in 1968. Average incomes, adjusted for inflation, peaked in 1973 and have been zigzagging downward. Reagan was right when he said in his 1980 campaign that Americans were worse off than when Carter took office in 1976. But we are even worse off now than we were in 1980. Recessions and the oil crisis lowered average family incomes, as did the rising divorce rate and the growth in the number of households headed by women. After a year of divorce, the average standard of living for men improves about 42%, while the average standard for women and children drops about 73%. Thus the increasing prosperity of families where both husband and wife work has been more than offset by the growing number of impoverished households headed by working women.

From 1979 to 1982, inflation rose faster than wages, with price hikes devouring wage hikes. The Commerce Department reported that the 1983 increase in income was the first in four years to outpace inflation, with a 1.6% gain after inflation was figured in. But almost all of this increase was accounted for by white families, which showed a 1.4% gain to a median income of \$25,757. The median income for black families (\$15,887) and that for Hispanic families (\$16,957) exhibited no improvement. Hispanic family incomes have been hit hardest over the years, falling 13% since a peak of \$19,488 in 1972.

In terms of average income, the Midwest is the second poorest region in the US (after the South), lagging behind both the Northeast and the West.

VACATION TIME

The average paid vacation is 10 days in the US, but 31 days in Holland and 30 days in Germany, according to Les Finnegan's column *Cavalcade*. Paid vacations average 28 days in France, 26 days in Norway, and 25 days in Britain, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Sweden, and Switzerland.

"THE WORKERS' STATE": People all over Russia celebrated V.I. Lenin's birthday April 20th with a "Subbotnik". For workers, this meant a day of compulsory unpaid labor. For Politburo members, it meant a day of making speeches.

World Labor News

OPPRESSION AND RESISTANCE ON MINDANAO

The role Third World governments play in repressing their working classes on behalf of multinational corporations is seldom spelled out as plainly as in the Philippines. Until the last few years, however, little was known about the progressive forces of labor on the southern island of Mindanao.

In Davao City in 1981, a group of labor organizations joined forces to form the United Workers of Mindanao (NAMAMIN). Since its founding, NAMAMIN has been responsible for organizing many successful strikes and rallies throughout the Davao area. These successes were not without reprisals. NAMAMIN's headquarters were attacked several times by goons thought to have been hired by corrupt city officials and military commanders, and some of its lawyers were arrested. In late 1983 NAMAMIN changed its name to the United Workers of Southern Mindanao (NAMAHEMIN) and linked up with an affiliate of the radical May First Union, KMU.

On January 6th through 8th of this year, NAMAHEMIN and other Mindanao labor organizations participated in a national Welga Ng Bayan, or Strike of the People. The strike was called in protest against the intensified militarization, especially on Mindanao, and against US intervention in Philippine politics and economics. Due to the backing of the transport workers, the strike brought the major cities of Mindanao to a halt. Despite this success, two strikers were killed by the Military four days later at Franklin Baker Company in Davao del Sur.

Repressive as the situation is in Davao and other cities on Mindanao, however, workers in the countryside face the full panoply of counter-insurgent warfare: hamleting (forced relocation to villages where they can be kept under military surveillance), checkpoints, disappearances, mass arrests, assassinations, torture, napalm bombing, strafing, and "salvaging" (summary execution). The Marcos regime has been inclined to quash dissent militarily, not so much in the interest of "national security", but because the interests of giant businesses in the area are at stake.

Bukidnon Province

In Bukidnon Province (the name Bukidnon literally means "mountainous"), corn and rice growing once formed the basis of the economy. Most of the populace still are tied to the land in subsistence farming, and land disputes are a matter of life and death. The provincial government has facilitated the forcible ejection of settlers, both landowners and tenants, by giant agribusinesses that want the land to grow pineapple, sugar, tobacco, and coffee.

Reynolds-owned Del Monte, which operates through its Philippine Packing Corporation subsidiary, started out with just 5,000 hectares of land. Today it controls some 28,000 hectares of land and has targeted another 10,000 for acquisition. The Bukidnon Sugar Company has carved out a sugar plantation of about 18,000 hectares. The San Miguel Corporation and four other companies have recently obtained 5,000 acres for their coffee plantation. Twelve logging firms occupy the province, and their land concessions directly affect around 90% of the tribal peoples, none of whom have titles to the land they live on.

As the land slips out of their hands and into those of expanding agribusiness, people resist. Starting in 1980, supporters of the New People's Army (the military wing of the Philippine Communist Party) have intensified their propaganda campaign in the provincial outskirts, gaining support and sympathy primarily from beleaguered farmers. On December 10th, 1981, some 20,000 people gathered for a protest march in the municipality of Valencia. In response, the Military went on a rampage: The wave of kidnappings, mass arrests, and massive roundups of rebel suspects over the next two years silenced overt protest for a time. But now that the Government has launched an ambitious dam-building program that will provide electricity for corporate use and flood the local residents' riverside farmland, overt opposition is resurfacing.

Surigao Sur Province

In Surigao Sur Province, the Military has recently stepped up its anti-dissident campaign in the hinterland barrios, its principal targets.

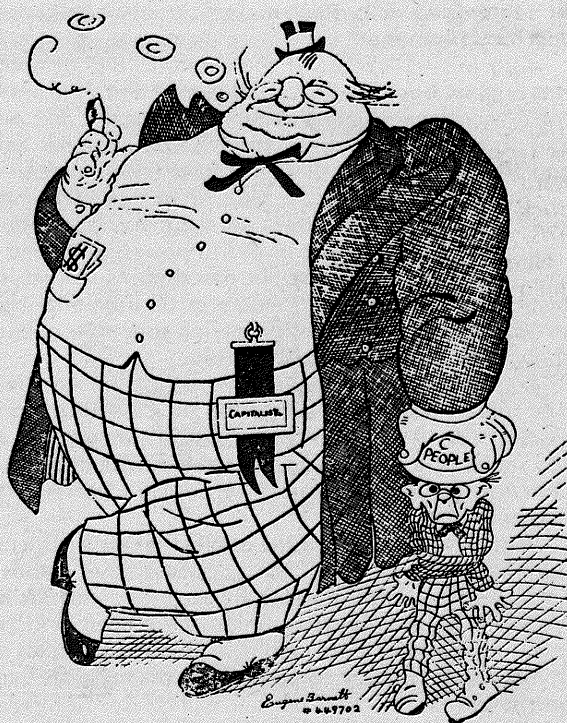
Huge tracts of land throughout Surigao Sur have fallen into corporate hands as concession areas, dislocating settlers or making them virtually squatters on their own land. The biggest corporation is the Paper Industries of the Philippines (PICOP), which now controls more than a third of the total land area of Surigao Sur. It entered the province by inducing small farmers and landowners to become its "junior partners". The deal was simple: Farmers had only to plant Ipil-ipil and Falcatta trees, provided as "loans". When the trees matured in six years, the PICOP would buy them.

The effect was to pull people into a debt trap from which there is no escape. With their farmlands planted with commercial trees, basic food becomes scarce. They are unable to pay back their loans, and are forced either to sell their land outright to the corporations or to work as contractual laborers. Those farmers who refuse the corporations' expansion drive are engaged in constant clashes against company guards, who in PICOP's case amount to a private army complete with its own espionage and communications system. Not sur-

prisingly, in 1984 Surigao Sur was among the top ten provinces in the entire Philippine archipelago in terms of human-rights violations, as company guards, right-wing paramilitary groups, and regular soldiers sought to terrorize people off their land and into the hamlets, either in the name of security or as part of a land-grab.

Local activists in Surigao Sur claim that when the soldiers first arrived in the area, NPA activity was unheard of. But now civilians, both actual and potential victims, either evacuate their land or seek redress from the NPA.

The *Industrial Worker* wants to thank J.J. Kaufmann, who was in the Philippines in May 1984, for the information he sent us.



SOUTH AFRICAN WORKERS CELEBRATE MAY DAY

Some 20,000 workers flocked to meetings throughout South Africa demanding a 40-hour week, the right to organize freely and to picket (currently prohibited by South African law), decent housing and schooling, an end to apartheid, and, of course, May Day as a paid public holiday.

Some 3,000 workers attended a May Day meeting in Cape Town organized by the seven unions involved in unity plans, where they heard John Ernstzen of the Cape Town Municipal Workers Association note that May Day is both a day of celebration and an occasion to honor those who have died for the workers' struggle. "Who can forget Neil Aggett and the others who have fallen?" he asked. "The only way to pay tribute to them is to continue to fight."

Other speakers at the various rallies throughout South Africa stressed the need for workers to build their own organizations and fight for their own interests, not trusting in politicians, and to stand in solidarity with their fellow workers round the world. In Port Elizabeth workers adopted a resolution pledging to build support for Brazilian workers fighting for the right to union representation at Firestone's Sao Paulo factory.

IRISH ANTI-APARTHEID STRIKE CONTINUES

As of early June, workers in Dublin's Dunnes Stores were pursuing their 11-month strike for the right to refuse to handle South African goods. On July 17th, 1984 Mary Manning, a checkout clerk at Dunnes, refused to ring up two South African grapefruits in keeping with the boycott call of the Irish Distributive and Administrative Union. Manning was suspended for her action, and her co-workers walked out in support.

During their nearly-year-long strike, these workers have received widespread support throughout Ireland, if only out of conscience and not out of political consciousness. Apartheid is a safe issue to be against, and even workers' solidarity is easy to show if the workers supported are off in another country. But the issue that hits home is glossed over—the right of workers on the job to decide what they will or will not do on the job.

South African produce accounts for a small proportion of the goods on sale at Dunnes Stores. It's not support for South Africa that is producing the intransigence of the Dunnes Stores owners—it's the infringement of management's "right" to run things. As Peter Dunnes sees perhaps more clearly than most people: Today the grapefruit, tomorrow the whole store.

GERMAN-NICARAGUAN WORKERS' SOLIDARITY

Between April 14th and May 17th, 25 welders, carpenters, mechanics, and machine and mill operators of the West German metalworkers' union worked at various enterprises in Nicaragua.

A dozen of the visiting Germans worked in METASA

(Metals and Structures, SA), one of the country's three major metalworking plants, which until 1976 belonged to the US Steel Corporation. With iron imported from Argentina and Brazil, METASA manufactures tubes, iron sheets, and metal structures for building construction, bridges, and electric towers as well as reinforcement bars for concrete construction.

The German workers brought a donation of mechanical wrenches, calibrators, precision instruments, and other tools, and promised to send a special donation of occupational-safety materials, as they were highly concerned about the working conditions of their Nicaraguan counterparts. In 1984 the 650 METASA workers suffered 452 on-the-job accidents. The Germans plan to send equipment, pamphlets, and audio-visual materials on occupational safety produced in Spanish for foreign workers in Germany. The Germans were especially concerned that workers in the METASA reinforcement-bar section did not have face masks, dark glasses, or special clothing to protect them from the glare of the red-hot iron.

POLISH GOVERNMENT TAKES Solidarnosc funds: On June 21st the Polish Government announced that it gave its officially-sanctioned "labor unions" millions of zlotys in dues seized from Solidarnosc when it banned the free union federation in 1981. Replied Lech Walesa: "They should make sure they are counting it correctly, since when the time comes to give it back we will add it up."

PORTUGAL: Nationwide strikes and protests against the "socialist" government's austerity packages rocked Portugal June 4th, halting public transportation in several areas and disrupting the chemical and steel industries.

FRANCE: 200 workers occupying a factory closed by its Swedish owners in 1983 were routed by riot police using stun grenades and tear gas June 5th. More than 40 workers were reported injured during the battle in the Paris suburb of Ivry.

SPAIN: Nearly a hundred unionists were arrested on June 20th when a general strike shut down most of the nation's industry and transportation. The strike—called by the "communist"-controlled union to protest proposed pension cuts and other austerity measures being pushed by the "socialist" government—reportedly involved some two and a half million workers, completely shutting down all of the Basque country and most of Barcelona, the country's two major industrial centers. Valencia, Spain's third-largest city, was also at a virtual standstill. Throughout the country transportation and communication were sharply reduced, and hundreds of workers were reportedly injured when police in riot gear attacked picket lines.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL notes that four Honduran labor unionists (Edilberto Funez Bonilla, Luis Gustavo Galeano, Luis Armando Iraheta, and Adalid Rodriguez) kidnapped March 15th by Government security (sic) forces have now been released, allegedly after being tortured while in detention. On March 28th a group of armed and hooded men burst into the headquarters of Chile's national union of teachers and arrested several union leaders. No word of their fate or whereabouts has been received.

CHILEAN BODY COUNT: Of the 20 elected officials of the country's largest peasant organization at the time of the Pinochet coup, only two are free in Chile today. The rest were executed, are missing, or are in exile.

GUATEMALAN UNIONIST KILLED: The mangled body of one of the leaders of the Guatemalan Glass Workers' Union, kidnapped by Government security forces last February, was found on March 14th. Another kidnapped activist is still missing. At the same time, the Guatemalan Federation of Trade Unions denounced Government plans to dissolve all unions of State employees and threatened to call strikes protesting the recent firing of 1,561.

NATIONAL STRIKE IN COLOMBIA: A nationwide one-day strike called by the Colombian Workers' Confederation to protest Government economic policy shut down public transportation June 20th. Security forces (sic) patrolled urban centers, and police said 600 people had been arrested throughout the country. During the strike 50 guerrillas attacked a town in the northwestern province of Antioquia, killing the mayor and wounding five people, including four police.

RISEING LABOR UNREST in El Salvador: As the US-funded air war in El Salvador intensifies, labor unrest in the cities continues. In May some 70,000 workers participated in a total of 20 work stoppages. A mere 15 hours after President Duarte gave a speech commemorating his first year in government and promising to respect human rights, special army troops violently took over a Social Security hospital in an attempt to end a strike that had begun nearly a month earlier.

Some 500 soldiers, faces painted to prevent identification, entered the hospital and removed its occupants, interrupting even operating-room surgery. Two union leaders from the INSSS (Salvadoran Social Security Institute) were captured; strikers and medical personnel were roughed up; a pregnant woman died; and soldiers killed four police by mistake.

The INSSS declared that it would continue its stay-in-strike for better wages and the removal of corrupt administrators. The Salvadoran Educators Association and unions from the national waterworks and television network and three private clothing industries pledged their support of the strike. Leftist rebels cut the power supply to the entire country June 2nd to protest the raid.

US Workers: Still An Endangered Species

Don't Let Your Job Kill You, by Franklin Wallick, Progressive Press (7620 Morningside Drive Northwest, Washington DC 20012), 1984, \$5 paperback

In 1972 a book on occupational-health issues, *The American Worker: An Endangered Species*, was published. In 1984 the book was re-issued under the title *Don't Let Your Job Kill You*. It's kind of depressing just how timely and useful this book still is.

Don't Let Your Job Kill You isn't the best book on the politics of occupational health. Berman's *Death on the Job* (Monthly Review Press) holds that honor. Nor is it the best technical source book for the non-expert. Stellman and Daum's *Work Is Dangerous to Your Health* (Pantheon Paperback) is still the best for that. But *Don't Let Your Job Kill You* is the best book to read first, as an introduction to the field.

In the early 1970s, occupational health and safety became—almost overnight—a major issue for the US labor movement. The first wave of protest came from coal miners and disabled former coal miners who formed the Black Lung Movement. Coal dust was clearly destroying miners' lungs, but the owners denied it, claiming that miners smoked too much, that only the relatively scarce anthracite mines posed any threat, and that the miners were faking. Sound familiar?

Miners in West Virginia staged an industry-wide general strike, winning disability pensions for black-lung victims and the first coal-dust protections. Later a law was passed: the Mine Safety and Health Act (MSHA).

Soon other workers began to notice that friends in the same work area or plant had the same shortness of breath or skin rash or tumor that they had, and the demands for protection of workers outside of the mining industry increased. But although there was considerable direct action on occupational-health-and-safety issues around that time, there were no industry- or region-wide strikes or similar actions.

The resulting law, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, was not as generous as the MSHA. Yet it became the focus of much of the labor movement's activity on occupational-health issues. Unions chased after elusive standards and regulations which—when enacted—never seemed to get noticed much outside the workplaces organized by some of the more militant locals.

Franklin Wallick, the author of *Don't Let Your Job Kill You*, is the longtime editor of the UAW's *Washington Report*, and was instrumental in getting the Occupational Safety and Health Act passed. So it's not surprising that a good bit of his book is concerned with the passage and best use of this law. What is interesting is that Wallick displays a healthy cynicism toward US labor law (chapters on OSHA are titled "Dunderheads on the Potomac", "Nice Guys Can Kill You", and the like).

Moreover, Wallick's main point is *not* proper use of legal procedures. Instead, he is most interested in union members' do-it-yourself occupational-health expertise and activism. In his afterword to the Progressive Press edition, Wallick cites a union member's telling an industrial hygienist "Never mind, I can look it up myself!" as a major sign of progress. He also emphasizes union mem-

bers as the main source of occupational-health-and-safety professionals.

In this edition of his book, Wallick has both added and deleted some material, but the main text has been left intact. Unfortunately, so little has been changed in the occupational-health field that this is not a big problem. The chapter "The Frye Report Seven Years Later" (which deals with occupational-health research) should have been updated, as should some resource groups cited in the main text. But generally, the text is still woefully up-to-date.

While much of what was left out was outdated, there are some things that will be sorely missed. The table of contents is perhaps the most serious casualty. *The American Worker: An Endangered Species* was unusual among occupational-health texts in that it lacked an index. *Don't Let Your Job Kill You* is unique in that it lacks a table of contents as well, which makes it pretty hard to locate specific information.

Also missed is most of the extensive bibliography in the original book. A list of US federal and state government agencies regulating occupational health and safety and some information on the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration also have been deleted.

The best additions are lists of occupational-health clinics and local committees on occupational safety and health (usually coalitions of health professionals and union locals). Also valuable are descriptions of successful tactics used by union members in occupational-health struggles on the job, mostly relying solely on publicity, though some involve direct action.

Some of the new material, though, is far less useful. The foreword and two articles by Dr. Eula Bingham (the head of OSHA under President Carter) are perhaps a bit too much of a good thing, as is the introduction to the OSHA leaflet (no longer used by Reagan's OSHA), which is reprinted.

Wallick's afterword to the original text is a little more optimistic than is really justified these days. Funds for occupational-health research are declining, and have been for years. More important, unions have been in increasingly rapid retreat from employer attacks. And since only union power is likely to accomplish the massive changes on the job needed to make our workplaces healthy and safe, any weakening of that power is bad news for occupational-health activists. The fact that *Don't Let Your Job Kill You* remains as useful as it is 13 years after it was first published is the best proof that workers have little reason for short-term optimism about health and safety on their jobs.

Richard Christopher

BOOK REVIEW

Labor in America: A Historical Bibliography (1973 to 1983), published by ABC-CLIO Information Services, Box 4397, Santa Barbara, California 93103, \$60.50

This is something you should ask your favorite library to acquire so you can spend many good hours using it, preferably in a library that stocks bound volumes of the

scholarly magazines it indexes. It is definitely not an index to labor publications, for about the only samples of these it lists are the old ISR and the current *Radical America*.

The summaries of the articles run only 10 to 12 lines, so serve only as guides to their contents. The book contains some 200 double-column pages of such summaries and 100 pages of indexes to help you locate them. Considering that IWW membership has fluctuated between a thousand and a hundred thousand (small numbers for total union membership), how come it looms so large in this or any summary of union labor? (There are some 70 direct listings under IWW and others under headings like "Free Speech".) Probably because it is pioneering that makes history, and because we have been trying to get our class to do what so obviously needs to be done: catch up with our times.

ft

JAPANESE WOMEN WIN SCUFFLE IN EQUALITY WAR: MAYBE

Of the major industrial countries, Japan has been one of the most resolute in keeping its men on the job and its women doing housework.

Women make up 35% of the Japanese workforce, even though their salaries are slightly less than 50% of those paid to men. At least 80% of all companies have one or more job categories for which women may not apply. While it is generally assumed that women will work only for a few years as "office ladies" (the English term has entered the Japanese language), then marry and quit, more than half of all Japanese married women hold jobs.

After seven years of public debate and behind-the-scenes compromise, the Japanese parliament has enacted a bill encouraging employers, beginning next April, to end discrimination on the basis of sex in their hiring, assignment, and promotion policies. But perhaps the most notable aspect of the Equal Employment Bill is that it has managed to please almost no one.

Women's groups are unhappy because the law has no teeth: It merely requires employers to "endeavor" to achieve equality, with no penalties if they don't bother.

Business groups are unhappy because, they say, the law threatens employment practices that they regard as part of the Japanese way of life. The changes, they contend, have come too fast.

Labor groups are unhappy because they say the old work restrictions were good. They argue that for every female corporate manager who becomes more promotable because she is no longer confined to a maximum of six overtime hours a week, many more women will suffer under the burden of enforced extra labor. Even now employers often ignore the six-hour overtime limit.

In their solicitude for the effects of long workdays on women, Japanese unions seem remarkably unconcerned about their effects on men. The overtime Japanese employers impose on their male employees forces them to work a month longer each year than workers on a 40-hour week.

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The IWW is producing an attractive 14-page labor-history calendar for 1986. This 11-by-17-inch calendar will feature dates drawn from labor history from around the globe, with striking graphics depicting the struggles of our fellow workers to build a better world. It will be available this fall for \$4.95, with our normal discounts for bulk orders. Don't miss it!

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POOR AMIGO!

Pedro Sanchez was a brawny Mexican national who had been picked up twice by the border patrol. But on his third try he successfully slipped past the guards and joined his estimated 25,000 to 35,000 fellow illegals in the fields and orchards of California.

Prospects haven't been rosy for Pedro and his friends here in the nation's salad bowl. Many of those not too intimidated by the Immigration and Naturalization Service eagerly accepted Cesar Chavez's proposal to join the United Farm Workers. Pedro's boss didn't mind hiring illegals, who compose about 70% of California's agricultural workforce. But when he discovered their union affiliations, like the upstanding citizen he wasn't, he reported them to the INS. Exit Pedro and his amigos.

If the UFW must depend for its existence on the 30% of "legitimate" workers here, where does this leave the union? Since a majority of all employees must vote for its contracts, the union is automatically ousted. And are the "wetbacks" who help fill our pantries to be shunted aside from the just rewards of their labor?

Though more than a million illegals were apprehended in 1983, the border patrol picked up 30% more last year than the year before. Yet more illegals slip through the net than are caught. The stream trickling out of Mexico's impoverished land has become a river of docile, passive peons who will accept much ill usage rather than attract the attention of the INS. It's a labor pool very attractive to growers.

The US Supreme Court ruled last summer that illegal aliens fired for joining a union couldn't collect back pay. Perfectly logical: Their presence was illegal; therefore they were unavailable for work in the first place. (Sort of invisible non-persons with busy hands and no human identity.) So far, California's Farm Labor Board hasn't been bound by the Court's decision, as Federal labor law excludes farm labor. But growers are trying to change that picture. With some juggling of the local laws, illegals will lose their last scrap of protection from grower abuse. Also, if pending legislation is passed by Congress, employers who knowingly hire illegals will be in the stew too. But then, why should they worry? Employers always have so much less to lose, and so many loopholes unavailable to workers.

In the midst of this hassle Cesar Chavez launched another boycott of table grapes last year. The UFW picks about 5% of all table grapes in the country, and Chavez expects the support of 3 to 5% of the public (down from 10 to 12% in his 1966-75 drive).

THE UNCONVENTIONAL WISDOM

From time immemorial, defenders of Things As They Are have sung this refrain to critics of the system:

"You 'lefties' ain't smart enough to be a success under the system, so you're jealous of those who are."

Jealous? No, I don't think I'm jealous. But I am infuriated when I read "Pay averages \$817,325 for top 100 executives." Which figure does not count their shareholdings and other perks.

What's the minimum legal wage set by our national legislators? \$3.50 and under, depending on the state you live in. Okay, so 40 hours a week for 52 weeks (they didn't legislate paid vacations for minimum-wage earners, did they?) gives us 2,080 hours. At \$3.50 an hour, this amounts to an annual income of \$7,280—just \$810,045 short of the average top-100 executive (not counting those extra perks).

Isn't it all just an exercise in goofiness? The idea of a wage system as a viable entity, I mean.

Would you want to bet that we, the people, *could not* get along without the services rendered by every last one of those top 100 executives? Would you want to bet that we, the people, *could* get along without the services rendered by those earning the minimum wage? You would? Oh boy! Have I got a sure thing for you! All you've got to do is bet which shell the pea is under! Bring the grocery money.

Pervicacia

SWISS-BASED NESTLE, now the world's largest food conglomerate, is expanding in North America with its three-billion-dollar acquisition of the US firm Carnation. Nestle takeovers in 1984 of 10 other food and medical companies have boosted annual sales by a third to \$14 billion.

WHY JOIN THE IWW?

Because there are things we can do together that we cannot do alone. Some of these things will benefit your job and some will merely benefit the human race. Whether we are in a position to get you a pay raise or not, your conscience will repay you and your self-respect will increase if you join with us to get things done.

Since we are a union, this offer is open only to those who work for wages or salary; but since we are building One Big Union, it is open to wage and salary workers whether they happen to bargain through other unions or not. Look at the directory on Page 7. If you can readily reach someone there, do so. If not, write to the General Secretary, IWW, 3435 North Sheffield, Chicago, IL 60657, with a line about your job. The initiation fee is \$5 in the U.S., and dues are \$5 a month.

The United Farm Workers have fallen on evil times. The harassment of illegals, the appointment of new conservative members to the California Farm Labor Board, the doubling of unresolved labor complaints plus the reduction of operating funds by 27% under Governor Deukmejian—all of these factors have twisted the Board out of its original shape. Oh, you liberals, will you never learn not to lean on the Establishment?

A sad climax to all these troubles came recently with the shooting death of Rene Lopez, a dairy worker at Sikkema Family Farms, during a union election.

Says Chavez: "It's time to place our faith in the court of last resort once again. The growers think they don't have to respond to the workers' needs because they have Deukmejian to protect them. But he can't protect the growers from the boycott."

Dorice McDaniels

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Many thanks, fellow workers, for your generous support.

SOUND OF A DISTANT DRUM

In the heartland and nerve center of Britain's London-based anarchist movement, printed fingers continue to be pointed in quivering rages by the Old Guard and the Young Turks; and in the bookshop loo the sound of sobbing can be heard; and it can all be read for the price of a signed blank check, and it is all very sad. And I write as one who after a long silence has managed to crawl back into the pages of the local anarchist press, and God Bless All Here. That these things should happen is a matter of deep regret; but when principles and personalities clash, then heads begin to roll: committee-style in the West and physically in the East.

But for the greater mass of the 56,000,000 men, women, and children of these small islands, there is this day a greater worry in powerbroking than that of noble principles. For Ma Thatcher's maniac right have won another day, and we wait glued to our TV screens, in romantic theory if not in fact, for the greatest list of working-class social cuts that Ma and the maniac right of the Tory Party can dream up for us.

It has been leaked over the last few weeks, more times than the dangling line has been pulled in a public house at closing time, that it is to affect everything from State pensions to old people's aid . . . yea, even to the abolition of the small sums handed out by the State toward the burial of those of the laboring masses who have made it to the graveyard. And the tragedy of all this is that, like the national assets these stupid people are selling off to the Bright Boys, it is the nation's seed corn; and the Tory right wing are using it to finance middle-class tax cuts to buy votes for a national election.

But as Harry the Horse would say after every losing bet, it is strictly a mug's game. For appeasement can never pay off, as the inept Tory Party found out after Hitler's 1938 Munich; for no matter how much you cut the taxes of the middle-class voters, create more prisons and police, destroy working-class institutions, or smash working-class social services, the baying jackals who provide the voice of every society's middle class will still howl for greater authoritarian measures, more repression against the laboring masses, and more and more of those lovely tax cuts, and there will always be those eager to grab the now-worthless offices of power, if only to wear the clown's crown. So we wait for the latest TV news to see what we have drawn in this nation's russian roulette of social cuts.

Arthur Moyse, London

ORGANIZE THOSE ROBOTS!

Robots can do unexpected things and kill or maim the folks who work with them. A robot at Diecast Corporation's Michigan plant moved backward and killed Harry Allen by pinning him against a steel pole. The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health gets numerous reports of injuries caused by robots doing unexpected things. According to an April *Reader's Digest* summary, there are now over 13,000 robots at work in the US, and around 40,000 in Japan. General Electric goes to the bargaining table ready to say that it can replace half of its 37,000 assemblers with robots.

The Robotics Institute at Carnegie-Mellon reckons that 70 to 90% of the 19 million who work at industrial tasks in the US could be replaced with robots.

Robots, properly used, could give us leisure, abundance, and fun. But not without a revolutionary change in management.

IWW Directory

ALASKA: Southeast Alaska General Membership Branch, PO Box 748, Douglas 99824. Ruth Sheridan, Delegate, 4704 Kenai, Anchorage 99508. Chris White, Box 72938, Fairbanks 99707.

BRITISH COLUMBIA: Vancouver General Membership Branch, Box 34334 Station D, Vancouver V6J 4P3, Canada, (604) 876-8438. West Kootenay IWW Group, PO Box 941, Nelson V1L 6A5, Canada.

CALIFORNIA: San Francisco Bay Area General Membership Branch, PO Box 40485, San Francisco 94140. Little River IWW Group, c/o PO Box 302, Little River 95456. R.M.R. Kroopkin, Delegate, 3924½ Park Boulevard, San Diego 92103. Richard Ellington, Delegate, 6448 Irwin Court, Oakland 94609, (415) 658-0293. Santa Clara Valley IWW Group, PO Box 9249, Number 194, San Jose 95157. David Bernreuter, Delegate, 718 Cayuga Street, Santa Cruz 95062.

FLORIDA: Fred Hansen, Box 824, New Port Richey 33552.

GUAM: Shelby Shapiro, Delegate, PO Box 864, Agana, Guam 96910.

IDAHO: IWW Delegate, Route 1, Box 137, Potlach 83855. Southeastern Idaho Forest Workers Affinity Group IU 120, Box 764, Pocatello 83201.

ILLINOIS: Chicago General Membership Branch, 3435 North Sheffield, Suite 202, Chicago 60657, (312) 549-5045. Meetings first Wednesday of each month, 7:30 pm. Champaign-Urbana IWW Group, Jeff Stein, Delegate, 1007 North Randolph, Champaign 61820.

INDIANA: Mitchell Rice, Delegate, 7333 West Isom Road, Bloomington 47401.

KANSAS: General Defense Committee, Arthur J. Miller, Secretary, PO Box 6130, Kansas City 66106. IWW Delegate, PO Box 522, Wichita 67201.

KENTUCKY: Louisville IWW Group, 2024 Baringer Avenue, Louisville 40204.

LOUISIANA: IWW Group, PO Box 16725, Baton Rouge 70893.

MANITOBA: Winnipeg IWW Group, "Haywire Brack", Delegate, Box 161, Station C, Winnipeg R3M 3S7, Canada.

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston General Membership Branch PO Box 454, Cambridge 02139. Meetings first Sunday of each month, 522-7090 or 625-5107. Western Massachusetts IWW Group, PO Box 465, Hadley 01035.

MICHIGAN: Southeast Michigan General Membership Branch, 42 South Summit, Ypsilanti 48197, (313) 483-3478. Meetings second Sunday of each month. University Cellar IU 660 Job Branch, 341 East Liberty, Ann Arbor 48107. People's Warehouse IU 660 Job Branch, c/o Burkhardt, 727 West Ellsworth Road, Ann Arbor 48104. IWW Delegate, 415 Ethel, Grand Rapids 49506.

MINNESOTA: Twin Cities IWW Group, Nancy Arthur Collins, Delegate, 1621 Marshall, Number 3, Saint Paul 55104.

MONTANA: Clark Fork Valley IWW Group, PO Box 8562, Missoula 59807, (406) 728-6053. A. L. Nurse, Delegate, Route 5, Box 88, Thompson Falls 59874, (406) 827-3238.

NEW YORK: New York City General Membership Branch PO Box 183, New York 10028. Henry Pfaff, Delegate, 77 Eckhart, Buffalo 14207, (816) 877-6073. Jackie Panish, Delegate, 99-12 65th Road, Number 5-J, Rego Park 11374, (212) 868-1121.

OHIO: Southwest Ohio IWW Group and General Defense Committee Local 1, Corey Slavitt, Delegate, 1119 Xenia Avenue, Yellow Springs 45387, (513) 767-1727.

ONTARIO: Brian Burch, Delegate, 257B Carlton Street, Toronto M1A 2L4, Canada.

PENNSYLVANIA: Tom Hill, Delegate, PO Box 41928, Philadelphia 19101.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Harbinger Publications IU 450, 18 Bluff Road, Columbia 29201, (803) 254-9398.

TEXAS: Andrew Lee, Delegate, 3402 Enfield, Apartment B, Austin 78703, (512) 472-7854. Gilbert Mers, Delegate, 7031 Kernel, Houston 77087, (713) 921-0877.

WASHINGTON: Bellingham General Membership Branch PO Box 1386, Bellingham 98227. Seattle General Membership Branch, 3238 33rd Avenue South, Seattle 98144. Tacoma/Olympia General Membership Branch, 2115 South Sheridan, Tacoma 98405, (206) 272-8119. Orchard Workers Organizing Project, Box 2223, Chelan 98816. Walla Walla IWW Group, PO Box 392, Walla Walla 99362.

WISCONSIN: Madison General Membership Branch, c/o 1846 Jennifer, Madison 53704.

BIG MOUNTAIN DAY

In the 1940s the US Government discovered vast and valuable mineral deposits under the Hopi and Navajo reservations in the Four Corners area of the Southwest. The latest attempt to open the land to Anglo exploitation began in 1974 when Congress passed the Navajo-Hopi Land Settlement Act, dividing land formerly jointly used by the two nations into two separate tribal areas. Plans to fence off the 400 miles of border and remove some 14,000 people from the area came to a halt in '79, however, when a woman who lived on Big Mountain began shooting at the fencing crew. Since that time, other Navajo women have joined her in combatting this outrage—pulling up fenceposts, taking keys from trucks, throwing rocks. . . .

July 1986 is the deadline the US Government is giving the residents of the Big Mountain area to get off their own land. But they have not, and will not.

South Africa's Unions: an Overview

FOSATU AND THE UNITY UNIONS

(This is the second in a three-part series on South Africa's union movement. This article discusses the Federation of South African Trade Unions and efforts to form a new, broader federation with other emerging unions. Next issue the series will conclude with a look at the South African Allied Workers Union, the largest and most militant of the unregistered unions.)

In 1969 there were just 15,000 black workers in South African unions. Today more than half a million blacks are organized despite fierce repression. Most strikes in South Africa are illegal, picketing is banned, strikers can be deported to *bantustans*, black workers and other non-white workers make miserable wages, and unemployment is high. In the face of these obstacles black workers and others have been coming together to organize non-racial unions to fight for better conditions today, and a better world tomorrow.

The best organized and most active of these emerging unions is the FOSATU, a tight-knit federation of eight industrial unions with a paid-up membership of some 120,000 workers. FOSATU has registered its unions with the Government, and tries to work within the framework of South Africa's repressive labor laws. Some FOSATU unions do participate in the South African system of national Industrial Councils—an elaborate framework for labor-management relations that aims at removing struggle from the shop floor—though FOSATU insists that the principle of plant-based bargaining and representation be adhered to. (Originally most of the emerging unions refused to register or to participate in the Councils, both because to do so involves serious compromise of autonomy and principle, and because few are strong enough to meaningfully represent their members on any but a plant-by-plant or regional basis.) FOSATU also places heavy reliance on short strikes and on boycott campaigns.

FOSATU's membership is predominantly black, but does include several Indian and colored workers, as well as a smattering of whites. FOSATU has insisted on organizing on a non-racial basis, and is strongest in heavy industry. Strong shop-floor organization, non-alliance with political organizations, industrial unionism, and

rank-and-file control are key to FOSATU's efforts to build a united labor movement independent of race, color, creed, or sex. FOSATU argues for building an explicitly working-class movement, arguing that workers have distinct interests not necessarily served by multi-class movements and popular fronts. Moreover, FOSATU argues that although South African society encourages



Thousands of South African workers protest the police murder of FOSATU regional vice-president Andries Raditsela May 14th.

workers to view racism as the source of their oppression, black employers treat workers no better than their white counterparts. FOSATU has participated in various campaigns against Government policies while maintaining its independence from various political groupings.

Although FOSATU stands clearly opposed to apart-

heid and refuses to capitulate to the idea that workers should either subordinate their struggles to politicians or ignore issues outside the workplace, there appears to be a great deal of confusion within FOSATU as to what kind of society it is trying to build. FOSATU publications make frequent reference to workers' control—by which they seem to mean workers' control both of their unions and of society—and have observed that "as the struggle of Solidarity shows, even the fact that a country is said to be socialist does not guarantee that workers control their own destiny" (from a pamphlet entitled *The Workers' Struggle: Where Does FOSATU Stand?*). At the same time, *FOSATU Worker News* (published 10 times a year) refers to China, Cuba, and the Soviet Union as "socialist" and in its May Day issue printed (without criticism) a photo of the annual May Day march in the Soviet Union.

Editorials in the paper regularly decry business's tacit support for apartheid. An October/November 1984 editorial argued: "It is time that the government and big business began to consider real solutions to the problems they have created...." Doubtless, FOSATU does not really expect employers to dismantle this system which keeps workers in misery while bringing massive profits. But doesn't it encourage dangerous illusions to call on the apartheid government and the bosses to perform a task that can only be carried out by workers themselves?

As discussed last issue, FOSATU is currently involved with a number of other emerging unions—most notably the Council of Unions of South Africa (which includes the mine workers' union), the General Workers Union (which organizes predominantly among stevedores in the Cape Town area), and two small unions formerly associated with the South African Congress of Trade Unions (which was crushed in the early 1960s)—in organizing a new federation. The talks originally included almost all of South Africa's emerging unions, but the SAAWU and other unions were excluded when they insisted that earlier agreements reached in 1981 to refuse to register with the Government or to participate in the Industrial Councils be honored.

The new federation, to be formed later this year, will bring together some 300,000 workers on the basis of non-racialism, rank-and-file control, non-affiliation with political parties, and one industry/one union. This latter may prove difficult to accomplish, however, as several of the unions have overlapping jurisdictions and the CUSA is reportedly not as committed to the unity process as are other unions.

Subscriptions to *FOSATU Worker News*, Box 18109, Dalbridge 4014, South Africa, are \$15 a year. FOSATU also publishes pamphlets on a number of subjects, including unemployment insurance, women workers, and the workers' struggle.

JB

NOTICE? DID YOU NOTICE? DID YOU

ALL-WHITE JOB-SETTING ORDERED: On June 7th the Kentucky Workers' Compensation Board ordered a search for a job with all-white co-workers for a former street-cleaning supervisor because he says he has a mental problem that makes him fear working with blacks. And until such a job can be found, he'll get a disability benefit of \$231.47 a week. Given the segregated nature of US employment, however, the poor bastard shouldn't be unemployed too long.

ALOHA, DIBROMOCHLOROPROPANE: Ten times as much pesticide and herbicide is used in Hawaii per square mile, and three times as much per capita, as in any US mainland state. In 1981 the Hawaiian pineapple industry was permitted to use the pesticide dibromochloropropane, a carcinogen banned on the mainland by the Environmental Protection Agency in 1979, under a special variance that expired early in 1985. This did not stop Hawaiian growers from asking the EPA to allow them to go on using the chemical for two more years, until their stockpiles are depleted.

SNUFF OUT JOURNALISM: In the last two weeks of April, Cornell University saw the largest protests in its history—far larger than those in the '60s—as some 1,050 students, staff members, and faculty were arrested for protesting complicity of the University with South African apartheid. On May 1st, in an unprecedented rebuff to the University Administration and trustees, the assembled faculty voted 323 to 72 for total divestment of stocks in companies doing business in South Africa. None of this received coverage in the boss press.

TORTURE EXPORTS: In 1984 the Reagan Administration brought the arms trade to a new level of candor with the issuance of a Commerce Department Commodity Control List authorizing (in Section 5999B) the licensed export of "specially designed implements of torture". The List includes a provision noting that licenses are not required for torture exports to "Australia, Japan, New Zealand, and members of NATO (which includes Turkey)". The authorization, first brought to light by *National Reporter* magazine, was explained by the Administration as a human-rights effort to bring the trade of torture implements under orderly regulation. It seems to us that governments wishing to torture their unfortunate citizens can usually manage to do so without special US imports. Nevertheless, if any of our readers know anything about US manufacture and export of torture implements, publish it so a boycott can be launched.

SUPPLY-SIDE POSTPARTUM ABORTION: The rate of infant mortality for white US babies has dropped 4% since 1981—to an all-time low. The rate for black babies, however, has climbed 2% since then—to almost double the rate for white babies. The black-white rates haven't been that disparate since 1962.

OVER 160,000 MINERS in Britain and the US have died in accidents this century.

20% OF US WELLS TAINTED: Almost 20% of the 124,000 wells in the US show evidence of contamination

by inorganic nitrogen compounds, according to the second annual National Water Summary of the US Geological Survey, and 6% exceed recommended standards. The main sources of the nitrates are septic tanks, livestock waste, and fertilizer. Well water provides more than half the nation's drinking water—97% in rural areas.

DOWN ON THE FARM: Since 1983, according to the National Safety Council, farming has accumulated the worst statistics in the US for work-related deaths and injuries, surpassing even mining. In Iowa, farmers have a 32% greater risk of dying from cancer than non-farmers. In Nebraska, the rate of leukemia for farmers is 44% greater. In Minnesota, the farmers' rate of cancer of the central nervous system is greater. In Wisconsin, the rate of cancer in the lymphatic system and multiple myeloma is. The most probable cause of this situation is the heavy use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers. Late in 1984, even the Environmental Protection Agency (sic) began warning farmers to wear gloves and goggles when using alachlor, the nation's most widely used pesticide, produced by Monsanto.

FREE WORLD: the group of countries that maintain a door open to private investment. (Edward Herman's Guide to Current Usage)

MONSANTO WORKERS LOSE SIX OF SEVEN TOXIC-EXPOSURE DAMAGE CLAIMS

This May a jury ruled in favor of the Monsanto Company on all but one damage claim in a 28-million-dollar lawsuit brought by seven former workers poisoned on the job by a number of chemicals, including dioxin. The seven contended that their lingering medical problems, including skin and bladder cancer and a variety of nervous disorders, stemmed from exposure to dioxin and five other chemicals at the Company's plant in Nitro, West Virginia, where they had worked an average of 35 years. Company lawyers blamed the problems on the workers' ages and habits, including smoking and drinking.

The federal jury rejected all damage claims in connection with dioxin, a highly-toxic by-product of herbicide production, but allowed one claim regarding paraminobiphenyl. Monsanto lawyers claimed the only proven health problem associated with dioxin exposure was chlorance, a severe skin rash. They acknowledged that the employees did not work in a "candy factory", but said the Company provided adequate safeguards.

The six-member jury returned its verdict after five days of deliberations in a lawsuit viewed by both sides as a test case affecting the status of similar claims by more than 130 past and present Monsanto workers and their families.

A lawyer for the workers said he would appeal the jury's verdict. "What you've got in this country," he pointed out, "is a federal court system constructed by design and purpose to perpetuate the interests of business, corporations, and capitalism."

INDUSTRIAL WORKER
3435 N. Sheffield Avenue
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ISSN: 0019-8870

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TO:

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LOGIC: When a Tory backbencher in Parliament was asked "If Mrs. Thatcher happened to be run over by a bus, who would you like to succeed her?" he answered "The bus driver."

FIVE LESSONS FROM FOOD FIRST

Food First/Institute of Food and Development Policy, a center that works to identify the root causes of hunger around the world, offers the following lessons about hunger and its relation to social conflict:

(1) In places like Central America no amount of foreign aid or new technology can end hunger, because the benefits of such assistance are monopolized by the elites which control the economy and the government. Nothing less is required than a downward shift in power from the privileged elite to the hungry majority. Such a genuine shift in power is a revolution, as opposed to a coup, which simply installs a new elite.

(2) There will always be struggles to shift power downward, as the hungry will not continue to watch their children die needlessly.

(3) Only the local poor and their allies can create genuine revolutionary change; revolutions are not packaged and "exported".

(4) The poor invariably begin their struggles through peaceful means, but when the privileged elite protect their status with force, revolutionary insurgency results.

(5) There will always be counter-revolution. Once deposed from power, local elites and their foreign allies will mount attacks on the revolution, attempting to regain lost privileges.